**Talking Points for 21st Century**

* Missoula County Public Schools, through its 21st Century Initiative, is positioning its schools and educational community (at large) to be among the best in the nation. The initiative is focused on transforming schools to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in a world that is continually influenced by diverse cultures, lifestyles, religions, technologies and economies.
* The development of the MCPS 21st century model officially began in August 2010. The year-long process included Phase I (organizing, data collection and analysis) and Phase II (vision formation, model creation and plan development). The resulting model was released in August 2011. In general, several hundred employees, parents, students and community members participated in the development of the new model.
* There are six key change elements in the MCPS 21st century model.  They are:
  + Increase student engagement
  + Transform learning environments
  + Support innovators
  + Personalize professional growth
  + Enhance communications
  + Collaborate to make decisions
* Under the new model, MCPS students will graduate with a skill set that meets the personal and professional demands of the 21st century. These skills are focused on creativity and innovation; critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; citizenship; lifelong learning; career development and conceptual knowledge.
* An 18-month “action map” has been created for each change element (Summer 2011 through fall 2012) that will initiate the implementation of the model across the District. In addition, each school will develop a plan in fall 2011 to reflect the six change elements at the building and classroom levels. The process will take several years for full implementation. While some parts of the model can be implemented at minimal cost, the District will seek additional funding through all available means to support the model’s full implementation.
* The vision for this model is significant:

**Missoula County Public Schools**

**Vision for 21st Century Teaching and Learning**

*We communicate; we collaborate; we think critically; and we create.*

*We are Missoula County Public Schools – educational leaders in a global society –*

*fostering uncompromising excellence and empowering all learners.*

* How can staff, parents and community be involved? Here are some ideas…
  + Staff can become innovators, help craft plans at buildings, and work to integrate the change elements in their classrooms and grade levels.
  + Parents and community members can be more involved by partnering to support the change elements; volunteering in schools; and can register at [www.mcps.k12.mt.us](http://www.mcps.k12.mt.us/) to receive updates on the progress of the implementation of the model.